

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 26, 2005, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in response thereto. Claims 7-15 remain pending in the application.

The rejection of claims 7-15 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Gillen et al is respectfully traversed. Claims 7 and 15 recite that the first and second surface features engage each other when the sliding panel is moved into the closed position to displace the sliding panel laterally toward the fixed panel to compress the seal about the periphery of the opening between the fixed panel and the sliding panel, and that the second surface feature laterally displaces the sliding panel substantially only when engaging the first surface features.

In contrast, Gillen teaches a lip 96 on gasket 28 for engaging the sliding window without being compressed between the fixed panel and the sliding panel. Instead, lip 96 projects away from the side of the fixed windows to where it contacts the sliding window. Therefore, the previously presented claims clearly distinguished from the teaching of Gillen. Moreover, guides 60 with edges 72 relied on by the rejection to allegedly show the second surface feature continue to act against track 16 even when not engaging cams 58, which is contrary to the recitation in claims 7 and 15 that the second surface feature laterally displaces the sliding panel substantially only when engaging the first surface features. Therefore, claims 7-15 are allowable over Gillen.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, claims 7-15 are now in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark L. Mollon
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 31,123

Dated: December 7, 2005
MacMillan, Sobanski & Todd, LLC
One Maritime Plaza, Fourth Floor
720 Water Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
(734) 542-0900
(734) 542-9569 (fax)